(v) Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organizations in different parts of the country, including North-East region for, *inter alia*, education, vocational training, income generation and gainful occupations. 21 organisations have been assisted so far under the Scheme.

2. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development is implementing a number of schemes for achieving the goal of self-sustenance and economic empowerment of women, such as, Support to Training cum Employment Programme, Setting up of Employment cum Production Units for Women, Socio-Economic Programme, Condensed Courses for Education and Vocation Training etc.

Disinvestment in PSUs

*116 CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether his Ministry has studied the proposal relating to the disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings, so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government considers the proposals for disinvestment on the basis of recommendations of Disinvestment Commission, BIFR and other expert Committees etc. in respect of specific Public Sector Undertakings before taking a decision in regard to disinvestment in such companies.

(c) The disinvestment of Government shareholding in PSUs is being done as per the declared policy to bring down the Government shareholding to 26% or below in the generality of cases. In cases of PSUs involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority shareholding. The Strategic Public Sector Enterprises are those in the areas of:

(a) Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships.

(b) Atomic Energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries).

(c) Railway transport.

Request of Himachal Pradesh for LPG Dealership

*117. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh had requested in 1995 and 1997 to award 22 and 15 LPG dealerships respectively in the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have asked the concerned oil company to prepare the feasibility report and include the same in the marketing plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made, so far, in this regard;

(e) whether Government propose to award these dealerships in the current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Out of the 22 locations recommended for setting up LPG distributorships by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in 1995, 11 locations have been found feasible and included in the Marketing Plan. Of these distributorships have already been commissioned at 2 locations and the process is on with the setting up of independent Dealer Selection Board for Himcahal Pradesh for selection of distributors. Out of the remaining 11, 10 locations are covered by the extension points and one location is not found feasible for setting up an LPG distributorship in the absence of any motorable road. Details are given in statement (*See* below)

Out of the 15 locations, recommended by the State Government in 1997, 6 locations have been found feasible and included in the Marketing Plan. Of these, distributorships have already been commissioned at 2 locations, Letter of Intent has been issued for 1 location, and the process for selection of distributors is on in respect of 3 locations. So far as remaining 9 locations are concerned, these are covered by the extension points. Details are given in statement-II.